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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Eighth session
Bonn, 2-12 June 1998
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Arrangements have been made for the eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to be held at the Hotel Maritim, Bonn, from 2 to 12 June 1998. The session is scheduled to be opened by the Chairman at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 June 1998.

2. Parties should be aware that this session of the SBSTA will differ from earlier sessions in that more time will be available for discussions, which will facilitate substantive negotiations by Parties. As time will be limited at its ninth session, the SBSTA should aim to arrive at conclusions on many of the issues before it at its eighth session.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

3. The provisional agenda for the eighth session of the SBSTA, proposed after consultation with the Chairman, is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Election of officers other than the Chairman;

(c) Organization of the work of the session;
(d) Allocation of work - issues arising from decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 6;
(e) Organization of the work of future sessions.

3. Cooperation with relevant international organizations.

4. National communications:

(a) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention;
(b) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: methodological aspects of consideration process.

5. Article 6 of the Convention: Education, training and public awareness.

6. Methodological issues:

(a) Emissions inventories;
(b) Land-use change and forestry - decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (a);
(c) Impact of single projects on emissions in the commitment period - decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (d);
(d) Scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil;
(e) Other matters.

7. Development and transfer of technologies.

8. Mechanisms for cooperative implementation:

(a) Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase;
(b) Joint implementation[1] - decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (c);
(c) Clean development mechanism - decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (e);
(d) Emissions trading - decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (b).

9. Roster of experts.

10. Report on the session.

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[1] This sub-item relates to Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol and paragraph 5 (c) of decision 1/CP.3. The term "joint implementation" is used for convenience.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

4. The eighth session of the SBSTA is scheduled to be opened by the Chairman at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 June 1998.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

5. The provisional agenda for the eighth session of the SBSTA is presented for adoption (see paragraph 3 above).

6. Sub-items 6 (b) and (c) and 8 (b) to (d) of the provisional agenda are among the issues arising from decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5.[2] The Chairmen of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the SBSTA were requested to "give guidance to the secretariat on the preparatory work needed for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, at its fourth session" in relation to the issues listed in that paragraph and "to allocate work thereon to the respective subsidiary bodies as appropriate". Following discussions between the Chairmen, sub-items 8 (b) to (d) have been placed on the provisional agendas of both bodies.

7. The Chairmen of the SBSTA and the SBI are holding informal consultations on the organization of work on the above-mentioned sub-items with a view to seeking an appropriate balance and avoiding duplication and overlap. Based on these consultations, a joint proposal will be made, and reproduced in document FCCC/SB/1998/3.

(b) Election of officers other than the Chairman

8. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) elected by acclamation the Chairman of the SBSTA. The COP agreed that consultations should continue with regard to nominations for the posts of vice-chairman and rapporteur with a view to their election at the eighth session of the SBSTA (see FCCC/CP/1997/7). Early agreement on these nominations will enable the SBSTA to commence its substantive work in an efficient manner and permit the Chairman to share the responsibility of leadership.

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[2] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its third session, see document FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1.

(c) Organization of the work of the session

(i) Arrangements on sub-items 8 (b) to 8 (d) of the provisional agenda

9. The Chairmen of the SBSTA and the SBI will put forward an approach, in their joint proposal mentioned in paragraph 7 above, concerning the organization of work on issues arising from decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5. This approach may include such arrangements as joint meetings or the participation of the Vice-Chairman from one body in the meetings of the other.

(ii) Documentation

10. The provisional agenda has been drawn up taking account of the expected timely availability of documentation in the six languages of the United Nations. A list of documents relating to the provisional agenda, as well as other documents available at the session, is contained in the annex below.

(iii) Schedule

11. The scheduling of meetings for the session will be based on the availability of facilities during normal working hours when services are available for two meetings of Convention bodies with interpretation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be some facilities for informal meetings without interpretation. Delegations are urged to use these facilities fully by attending all meetings promptly at the scheduled time. A schedule of meetings will be proposed after further consultations by the Chairmen on the organization of work and will be contained in the document referred to in paragraph 7 above.

(d) Allocation of work - issues arising from decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 6

12. In decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 6, the COP invited the Chairmen of the SBI and the SBSTA "to make a joint proposal to those bodies, at their eighth sessions, on the allocation to them of preparatory work to enable the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, at its first session after the entry into force of the Protocol, to accomplish the tasks assigned to it by the Protocol".

13. The joint proposal put forward by the Chairmen of the SBSTA and the SBI in response to the above-mentioned mandate is contained in document FCCC/SB/1998/1. Parties are invited to consider this joint proposal with a view to recommending, at the eighth sessions of the two subsidiary bodies, its adoption by the COP at its fourth session. Consideration of this matter could be expedited by way of a joint contact group. The Chairmen may make further proposals in this regard.

(e) Organization of the work of future sessions

14. Having confirmed the allocation of preparatory work to the subsidiary bodies and using document FCCC/SB/1998/1 as a basis for discussion, Parties may also wish to address the

programme of work necessary for the SBSTA to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 1) with a view to taking a decision, at its eighth session, which will enable substantive work to begin at the ninth session of the SBSTA. In particular, the SBSTA may wish to identify any priority areas for consideration and review how the tasks to be accomplished by COP/MOP 1 could best be integrated into the existing work programme. Parties may also wish to request any inputs from the secretariat which could assist in their deliberations. Consideration of the programme of work for COP/MOP 1 could also be dealt with in the joint contact group referred to in paragraph 13 above.

3. Cooperation with relevant international organizations

15. At its seventh session, the SBSTA invited relevant international organizations to continue their valuable work in support of the Convention process through the provision of periodic reports to the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14, para. 14 (h)). In addition, by its decision 8/CP.3, the Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTA, with the assistance of the secretariat and in consultation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to consider the adequacy of the global observational systems, namely the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), and to report its conclusions to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session. The SBSTA may receive a progress report from the relevant organizations on the status of preparation of a comprehensive report to the ninth session of the SBSTA and COP 4. The SBSTA may wish to invite the relevant organizations to complete the comprehensive report for consideration by its ninth session and by COP 4.

16. In addition, the SBSTA will have before it a note by the secretariat on cooperation, collaboration and consultations with relevant international organizations (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/2). The note will include information on the activities of the IPCC and, as available, other international organizations.

17. The SBSTA may also consider any other information from relevant international organizations which may be brought to its attention.

18. At the seventh session of the SBSTA, Parties were requested to provide, by 20 January 1998, submissions on the Third Assessment Report of the IPCC. These submissions can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.1.

4. National communications

(a) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

19. At its seventh session, the SBSTA took note of the methodological issues identified in the first compilation and synthesis of second national communications (FCCC/SBI/1997/19), as well as information provided on the technology transfer activities of Annex II Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/13), and decided to consider at its ninth session what, if any, additions

and/or amendments to the revised UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties would be required, taking into account the results of activities requested by the SBSTA at its seventh session, together with inputs from other bodies, such as the IPCC.

20. The SBSTA will have before it a note by the secretariat on issues related to guidelines for preparation of national communications from Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/3). In addition, the SBSTA will have available submissions from Parties on the reporting of information on finance and transfer of technology (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.3).

21. The SBSTA may wish to consider the extent, process, and schedule of future revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties under the Convention, with a view to providing its input to the SBI. Parties may also wish to bear in mind relevant provisions in the Kyoto Protocol as contained, for example, in its Articles 5 and 7.

22. A progress report prepared by the secretariat on methodological issues (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/4) and a compilation of submissions from Parties on possible approaches to resolving methodological issues (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.2) will be before the SBSTA. These two reports are proposed for discussion under agenda item 6.

(b) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: methodological aspects of consideration process

23. At its seventh session, the SBSTA noted that this matter would be discussed in the SBI and that no input was required from the SBSTA regarding methodological issues at that session (see FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14, para. 17).

24. In accordance with the agreed division of labour, this item will again be taken up by the SBI at this session and, provided that there are no methodological issues it wishes to address, does not need to be considered by the SBSTA.

25. The SBSTA may wish to address any methodological issues that may arise from consideration by the SBI of this item at a future session.

5. Article 6: Education, training and public awareness

26. Education, training and public awareness are essential to build support and capacities for action to address climate change and, thereby, to encourage wide participation of all sectors of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the general public in the implementation of the Convention. Article 6 makes provisions for cooperation related to education, training and public awareness. Convention bodies have yet to integrate this Article in their regular work, as they have with Article 5, on research and systematic observation. In accordance with the division of labour, the SBSTA has the overall responsibility for considering issues arising under Article 6.

27. In order to initiate a more comprehensive consideration of these issues than has hitherto been possible, the SBSTA may wish to take up the elements of Article 6 that deal with public awareness and related aspects of education (Article 6(a)(i) and (b)(i)). In particular it may focus on what resources could be mobilized to support Parties in cooperating in and promoting the development and exchange of education and public awareness materials on climate change and its effects.

28. The secretariat will organize a workshop on this subject during the first week of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies in June 1998. During this workshop, presentations will be made on an approach to this aspect of Article 6, as well as on ways in which the United Nations family and observer organizations, such as NGOs, could assist Parties in its implementation.

29. It is hoped that, following the workshop, it will be possible for the SBSTA to give guidance to the secretariat, and to organizations in the United Nations family, to undertake preparations for a thorough discussion of these issues by the SBSTA at its ninth session, and for possible decisions to be adopted by the COP at its fourth session.

6. Methodological issues

(a) Emissions inventories

30. At its seventh session, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its ninth session, a document listing methodological issues identified by the secretariat while compiling national greenhouse gases (GHG) inventories and in the course of in-depth reviews. The SBSTA will have before it a progress report for its consideration (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/4). The document provides information on activities being carried out by the secretariat in response to the decisions taken during the seventh session of the SBSTA and how these activities are linked to the Kyoto Protocol. The document also provides information on activities of the IPCC and on other methodological activities being undertaken by the secretariat. Also, the SBSTA will have before it submissions from Parties on possible approaches aimed at resolving methodological issues (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.2). Parties may wish to come prepared with possible suggestions about approaches to these activities.

(b) Land-use change and forestry

31. In accordance with decision 1/CP.3, the SBSTA will consider the issue of "modalities, rules and guidelines as to how, and which, additional human-induced activities related to changes in greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the agricultural soils and the land-use change and forestry categories shall be added to, or subtracted from, the assigned amounts for Parties included in Annex I" (decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5(a)). The SBSTA will have before it submissions from Parties on this matter (contained in document FCCC/SB/1998/MISC.1) as well as a note by the secretariat identifying related issues (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.1). The SBSTA may receive a short oral report from the Chairman of the IPCC on its activities related to land-use change and forestry. The SBSTA may wish to provide advice on the type of information the secretariat could provide and the approach and schedule for addressing this issue.

(c) Impact of single projects on emissions in the commitment period

32. Also in accordance with decision 1/CP.3, the SBSTA will take up the issue of "action on suitable methodologies to address the situation of Parties listed in Annex B to the Protocol for which single projects would have a significant proportional impact on emissions in the commitment period" (decision 1/CP.3, para. 5 (d)). Submissions from Parties related to this issue are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.1).

(d) Scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil

33. Furthermore, the SBSTA will consider the scientific and methodological aspects of the proposal by Brazil (FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, section III, para. 3). Parties may wish to come prepared with possible suggestions about approaches to this matter.

7. Development and transfer of technologies

34. At its seventh session, the SBSTA noted the activities under way by the secretariat related to the technology needs survey and the preparation of reports on terms of transfer of technology and adaptation technology. The SBSTA also noted the need to accelerate the process of providing information on technologies to developing countries. It requested the secretariat to consult with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other relevant international organizations and solicit information on their capabilities and abilities to support the work of (an) international technology information centre(s), as well as a national and regional centre(s) (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14, para. 24 (e)). The SBSTA further recommended a decision on the development and transfer of technologies which was adopted by the COP as decision 9/CP.3.

35. The SBSTA will have before it a progress report on the development and transfer of technologies (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/5). It will also have before it a synthesis report on technology and technology information needs of developing countries (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.5) and a report on options for technology information centres and networks (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.2). In addition, the SBSTA will have available submissions from Parties on international technology information centres, including their functions, and institutional and financial arrangements (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.4). It will also have available a technical paper on barriers and opportunities related to the transfer of technology (FCCC/TP/1998/1).

36. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the above reports and, in accordance with decision 9/CP.3, forward any conclusions regarding technology information centres and enhancing support for national and regional centres to the SBI for its consideration.

37. In the light of the large number of individual tasks requested from the secretariat on the development and transfer of technologies, as well as the key role that technology is expected to play in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the SBSTA may wish to review the current work of the secretariat on this issue with the aim of developing a more integrated and comprehensive work programme within existing resource levels. In addressing this matter, the SBSTA may wish to consider the current work plan as outlined in document FCCC/CP/1997/INF.1. It may also wish to take into account related work under way in other

intergovernmental organizations. In order to advance on this issue, the SBSTA could invite one of its officers to conduct informal consultations, at its ninth session, on the technology work of the secretariat and its relationship to that of other international organizations.

8. Mechanisms for cooperative implementation

38. The Parties may wish to consider in an integrated manner, in the SBSTA and the SBI, further work on activities implemented jointly (AIJ) under the pilot phase (agenda item 8(a)) and the preparatory work needed for action by COP 4 on the mechanisms of cooperative implementation established by the Kyoto Protocol, as mandated by decision 1/CP.3, paragraphs 5 (b), (c) and (e) (agenda items 8 (d), 8 (b) and 8 (c), respectively). These three mechanisms, established by the Protocol, are addressed in Articles 6 (joint implementation (JI)), 12 (clean development mechanism (CDM)) and 17 (emissions trading) of the Protocol, and are also referred to in its Article 3, paragraphs 10 and 11 (JI and emissions trading) and paragraph 12 (CDM). A coordinated approach to work on all four mechanisms by the SBSTA and the SBI will be proposed by the Chairmen of these bodies after consultations and will be contained in document FCCC/SB/1998/3.

39. The Chairmen will also suggest an approach to preparatory work on the CDM that goes beyond the limited mandate contained in decision 1/CP.3, paragraph 5 (e). That mandate refers only to Article 12, paragraph 10, concerning the use of certified emission reductions between 2000 and the start of the first commitment period. It may be assumed that preparatory work on other aspects of Article 12 will be required.

40. In support of their consideration of these matters, the Parties will have before them three documents:

(a) An update on AIJ under the pilot phase (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.3);

(b) A compilation of submissions by Parties on preparatory work needed for COP 4 on the items listed in paragraph 5 of decision 1/CP.3 (FCCC/SB/1998/MISC.1); and

(c) A note by the secretariat on issues related to the three mechanisms for cooperative implementation established by the Protocol. This document (FCCC/SB/1998/2) also deals with linkages between these mechanisms and AIJ.

41. Parties may wish to take note of the information and views contained in the documents, review proposed preparatory work needed for the consideration of the relevant issues by COP 4, give guidance to the secretariat on further work and take other decisions that will lay the ground for action by COP 4.

42. Regarding AIJ, the SBSTA, at its fifth session, requested the secretariat to develop, in accordance with decision 5/CP.1,[3] practical options with regard to the list of methodological issues contained in paragraph 47 (d) of its report on the work of that session

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[3] For decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

(FCCC/SBSTA/1997/4) and to report on the progress made in this respect. The SBSTA invited interested Parties and organizations to provide support to the secretariat in this task. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information update contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.3.

43. In the light of the new mechanisms provided for by Articles 6, 12 and 17 of the Kyoto Protocol, the Parties may wish to determine which elements of work under the AIJ pilot phase could contribute to their functioning. Parties may also wish to initiate preparations for a possible decision to be taken at COP 4 on the AIJ pilot phase, in accordance with decision 5/CP.1

9. Roster of experts

44. At its seventh session, the SBSTA considered issues related to the use of the roster of experts. It decided to consider the form used by the secretariat to collect information on nominees to the roster of experts at its eighth session. The SBSTA will have before it a note by the secretariat on this issue, including a copy of the form (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4).

10. Report on the session

45. Because of the time that is likely to be needed for considering all items on the agenda, a complete draft text of the report may not be available at the end of the session. The SBSTA may wish to adopt decisions or substantive conclusions, and authorize the Rapporteur to complete the report after the session with the guidance of the Chairman and the assistance of the secretariat. Subject to the availability of sufficient time for their translation, conclusions will be made available in all languages.

Annex

DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

Documents prepared for the session

FCCC/SBSTA/1998/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the Executive Secretary
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/2	Cooperation with relevant international organizations. Progress report
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/3	Methodological issues related to the guidelines for Annex I Parties
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/4	Methodological issues. Progress report
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/5	Development and transfer of technologies. Progress report
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.1	Issues related to land-use change and forestry
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.2	Options for technological information centres and networks
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.3	Update on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4	Roster of experts: Nomination form
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.5	Technology and technology information needs arising from the survey of developing country Parties. Synthesis report
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.1	Cooperation with relevant international organizations. Structure and contents of the Third Assessment Report by the IPCC. Additional comments by Parties
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.2	Approaches to resolving methodological issues related to national communications from Annex I Parties
FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.3	Reporting of information on finance and transfer of technology

FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.4	International technology information centres. Functions, institutional and financial arrangements
FCCC/SB/1998/1	Allocation to the subsidiary bodies of preparatory work for the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Note by the Chairmen
FCCC/SB/1998/2	Issues related to cooperative implementation
FCCC/SB/1998/3	Organization and schedule of work of the sessions. Additional information
FCCC/SB/1998/MISC.1	Preparatory work needed for COP 4 on the items listed in paragraph 5 of decision 1/CP.3. Submissions from Parties
FCCC/TP/1998/1	Barriers and opportunities related to the transfer of technology. Technical paper

Other documents for the session

FCCC/CP/1997/7	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session, held at Kyoto from 1 to 11 December 1997. Part one: Proceedings
FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its third session, held at Kyoto from 1 to 11 December 1997. Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its third session
FCCC/CP/1997/INF.1	Administrative and financial matters. Programme budget of the Convention for the biennium 1998-1999. Detailed subprogramme activities and resource requirements
FCCC/SBSTA/1997/4	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its fifth session, Bonn, 25 - 28 February 1997
FCCC/SBSTA/1997/6	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its sixth session, Bonn, 28 July - 5 August 1997

FCCC/SBSTA/1997/13	Second communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: Activities of Parties included in Annex II related to the transfer of technology
FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14	Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the work of its seventh session, Bonn, 20 - 28 October 1997
FCCC/SBI/1997/19	National communications: Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: First compilation and synthesis of second national communications from Annex I Parties

Documents available for reference only

FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session, held at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996. Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second session
FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, held at Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995. Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session
FCCC/SBI/1997/19/Add.1	National communications: Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: First compilation and synthesis of second national communications from Annex I Parties. Addendum: Tables of inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals for 1990-1995 and projections up to the year 2020
FCCC/SBI/1997/INF.4	National communications: Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. Updated information on greenhouse gas emissions and projections

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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Eighth session
Bonn, 2-12 June 1998
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Progress report on cooperation with international organizations

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	2
	A. Mandate	1 - 3	2
	B. Scope of the paper	4	2
	C. Possible action by the SBSTA	5	2
II.	DISCUSSION	6 - 26	3
	A. Cooperation with the organizations participating in the Climate Agenda regarding observational networks	6 - 10	3
	B. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	11 - 24	4
	C. Cooperation with other organizations	25 - 26	6

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. By its decision 7/CP.3, the Conference of the Parties (COP) invited the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, in particular the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), to continue their cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

2. By its decision 8/CP.3, the third session of the COP urged Parties to provide the necessary resources to reverse the decline in the existing observational networks and to support the global and regional observational systems being developed. It requested the SBSTA, with the assistance of the secretariat and in consultation with the IPCC, to consider the adequacy of the global observational systems, namely, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Terrestrial System (GTOS), and to report on its conclusions to the COP at its fourth session (FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1).

3. At its fifth session, the SBSTA noted that Articles 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention are broader than the Climate Agenda and requested the secretariat to explore the situation with respect to other areas of research, observation and data processing and to report, as appropriate, to future sessions of the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/4).

B. Scope of the paper

4. Further to the above request, and in consultation with the Interagency Committee on the Climate Agenda (IACCA) and the IPCC, this paper provides information on activities relevant to the above mandates.

C. Possible action by the SBSTA

5. The SBSTA may wish to:

(a) Take note of the information provided in this progress report;

(b) Encourage the secretariat to continue, maintain and strengthen its collaborative liaison with the relevant organizations; and

(c) Invite the organizations participating in the Climate Agenda to complete the comprehensive report on the observational networks of the climate system for presentation at its ninth session and, as appropriate, provide any additional guidance on this topic.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Cooperation with the organizations participating in the Climate Agenda regarding observational networks

6. The secretariat has coordinated with several international organizations and programmes active in the areas of systematic observation and research related to the climate system. These included, *inter alia*, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international organizations and programmes participating in the Climate Agenda.

7. At COP 3, the secretariat organized an informal meeting with the representatives of relevant organizations. The meeting reviewed the conclusions, decisions and requests of the SBSTA and the COP that are relevant to international organizations. The meeting concluded that a comprehensive report examining the adequacy of observational networks, identifying the existing gaps and quantifying the financial and human resources required, should be prepared for the ninth session of the SBSTA. It was agreed that the IACCA, in cooperation with its member organizations, would take the lead in the preparation of the report. The organizations and programmes participating in the Climate Agenda and other organizations, including the IPCC, would contribute to the preparation of the comprehensive report. A report on the status of its preparation of the comprehensive report will be presented to the eighth session of the SBSTA.

8. The comprehensive report will seek to satisfy three objectives:

(a) Recall the commitments of the Parties to the Convention with regard to essential systematic observations as provided for under Articles 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention;

(b) Review and consider the adequacy of the existing and planned observational systems as requested by decision 8/CP.3; and

(c) Identify issues for consideration by the SBSTA at its ninth session and, as appropriate, at the fourth session of the COP.

9. The report will review key issues related to climate change. It is likely to note that:

(a) Many observations are being collected by systems designated for other purposes and often lack the consistency required for climate applications;

(b) Many observational systems are deteriorating in their spatial coverage and/or their accuracy; and

(c) Many observational data are not being shared effectively.

10. In addition, the report would identify possible global networks capable of providing the necessary homogeneous and stable observations, together with the estimated resource implications, as well as requirements for capacity building.

B. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

11. The IPCC is undertaking a number of activities that are relevant to the work of the Convention, as discussed below.

1. Special report on emission scenarios

12. The main objective of the special report on emission scenarios is to review the literature and, based on the outcome, formulate a new set of scenarios to replace the six IPCC IS92 scenarios that are widely used as reference emissions trajectories. The preparation of the report includes an "open" process whereby scenarios developed by the writing team will be posted on a web site, and regional and global modelling groups will be invited to submit their own scenarios.

13. To date, a review of existing global and regional emission scenarios has been carried out, a database of more than 400 scenarios has been assembled and the process of statistical analysis of the scenarios in the database is under way. The development of an initial set of emission scenarios began with the formulation of narrative "storylines" to be used in defining the quantitative characteristics of initial scenarios. In January 1998, four modelling groups started to formulate the initial scenarios and to test them with their models for consistency in terms of both qualitative and quantitative factors by using models.

14. The "open" process described above will begin in May 1998. The comments of the outside modelling groups will be considered and the scenarios will be revised as appropriate. These will then be submitted for peer review in May 1999.

2. Special report on methodological and technological issues in technology transfer

15. The special report on methodological and technological issues in technology transfer will identify, describe and assess the potential effectiveness of options to accelerate the development and diffusion of technology for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The report will make extensive use of case studies to illustrate lessons learned from experience with a variety of arrangements. As many important sources of information on technology transfer are now available in the peer-reviewed literature, a methodology will be devised to use these sources, including listing them on an IPCC web site and making them available to the public from the IPCC Secretariat and the appropriate technical support unit.

16. Lead authors have been selected and drafts are currently being prepared. A review by experts will take place between October and November 1998, followed by the first government review between February and April 1999. The report is expected to be available by October 1999.

3. Special report on aviation and the global atmosphere

17. The special report on aviation and the global atmosphere will assess the state of understanding of relevant atmospheric science, aviation technology (including subsonic and supersonic aircraft) and socio-economic issues. The effects that aviation has had in the past and may have in the future on both global climate change and stratospheric ozone layer depletion will be covered. The report will include discussions of current aviation technology and its projected improvements, as well as socio-economic aspects of aviation. Lastly, the assessment will synthesize the scientific, technological and socio-economic information and will identify and describe potential options regarding future aviation impacts on the atmosphere.

18. The report, particularly its chapters on aircraft technology, current and future scenarios and air transport operations, is being prepared with the involvement of the aviation industry.

19. A review by experts will take place during April and May 1998, followed by the first government review during August and September 1998. The report is expected to be completed between March and April 1999.

4. Third Assessment Report

20. The Third Assessment Report (TAR) will be comprehensive and will cover the complete range of scientific, technical and economic issues associated with the climate system and climate change deemed important by the scientific or policy-making communities. The TAR will summarize the state of knowledge covered in previous IPCC reports but will primarily assess information generated since the Second Assessment Report, recognizing that climate change is a global issue. It will also emphasize the assessment of the regional aspects of climate change. It will consist of reports of the three IPCC working groups and a synthesis report. The synthesis report will be written in a non-technical style suitable for policymakers and will address a broad range of key policy-relevant questions.

21. The process of selecting lead authors, contributing authors and review editors has begun. The Bureaux of the three IPCC working groups met in March 1998 to identify experts, many of whom, it is expected, will play an important role in the drafting of the three working group reports. The first meeting involving these experts will be held from 29 June to 1 July 1998 during which the structure and content of each chapter will be planned and the process for selecting lead author teams will be advanced. The structure and contents of the reports will be proposed for adoption at the IPCC Plenary meeting scheduled for 1-3 October 1998, by which time it is expected that the lead author teams will be complete, subject to minor amendments.

22. Chapter teams will begin drafting the report in late 1998/early 1999. The three working group reports will each undergo, in turn, expert and government reviews during the year 2000. The reports are expected to be completed by late 2000 or early 2001.

5. Task group on climate scenarios for impact assessment

23. The IPCC has also formed a task group on climate scenarios for impact assessment to facilitate cooperation and promote collaboration between the climate modelling and impacts communities. It will address the availability and accessibility of climate scenarios and other data for use in impact studies and assessments.

24. A Data Distribution Centre to facilitate the timely distribution of consistent sets of up-to-date scenarios of changes in climate and related environmental and socio-economic factors is expected to become fully operational in July 1998 after a trial period beginning in April 1998. In addition, guidance material is being prepared on the provision, application, and interpretation of climate scenarios. Also, there are plans to develop a training programme on the use of these projections.

C. Cooperation with other organizations

25. The secretariat has continued to coordinate with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in relation to emissions of greenhouse gases from aviation and marine bunker fuels. The secretariat has written to ICAO and IMO to draw their attention to the relevant decisions of the COP at its third session, particularly decision 2/CP.3 on methodological issues related to the Kyoto Protocol and Article 2.2 of the Protocol. The secretariat noted that although it may take some time before the Kyoto Protocol enters into force, it may be prudent to explore what anticipatory action might be appropriate to respond to Article 2.2 of the Protocol.

26. After consultations with the Chairman of the SBSTA, the secretariat also contacted the International Human Dimension Programme of Global Environmental Change and the International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme to explore areas of cooperation and, as appropriate, to invite them to provide information on their activities to the SBSTA.

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